

Message Text

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13

ACTION COA-02

INFO OCT-01 EA-11 ADP-00 INT-08 COME-00 CG-00 L-03 OMB-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 NSC-10 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

IO-12 EB-11 RSR-01 /086 W
----- 087833

R 170755 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7360

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SEOUL 2384

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIS, KS

SUBJECT: FISHERIES: TANNER CRABS

REF: SEOUL 2161

1. EMBASSY HAS HAD NO RESPONSE TO AIDE MEMOIRE LEFT WITH FOREIGN
MINISTRY APRIL 9 RE KOREAN PLANS FOR TANNER CRAB FISHERY ON
U. S. CONTINENTAL SHELF.

2. IN CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF, SHIM, SANG JOON OF JEDONG
COMPANY SAID HE FEELS RESPONSIBLE FOR CRAB CONTROVERSY SINCE
IDEA FOR UTILIZING KMIDC MOTHERSHIP IN TANNER CRAB FISHERY WAS
ORIGINALLY HIS. HE ASSERTED HE WILL NEVER TAKE TANNER CRAB
WITHOUT PRIOR USG AGREEMENT BUT HINTED BROADLY THAT OTHER KOREAN
FISHERMEN ARE LESS SCRUPULOUS. HE THEREFORE HOPES USG WILL AGREE
TO SOME COMPROMISE SOLUTION. SHIM CLAIMED TANNER CRAB FISHERY IS
LAST HOPE FOR UTILIZATION OF KMIDC MOTHERSHIP, AND THAT IF
SUCH FISHERY CAN NOT BE ESTABLISHED HE WILL HAVE TO ABANDON HIS
PLANS TO PURCHASE KMIDC FROM KOREAN GOVERNMENT. (SHIM' S PURCHASE
OF KMIDC ALSO BEING DELAYED BY DISAGREEMENT WITH ROKG OVER HOW
MUCH OF KMIDC' S OUTSTANDING DEBT SHIM WILL ASSUME.) SHIM ASSERTED
FOREIGN MINISTRY IS HANDLING CRAB QUESTION WITHOUT CONSULTATION
WITH OFFICE OF FISHERIES (OFA) BECAUSE FOREIGN MINISTER IS
IRRITATED BY OFA' S TENDENCY OF LATE TO HANDLE ITS OWN FOREIGN
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RELATIONS.

3. COMMENT: SHIM APPARENTLY HOPES TO PARLAY USG CONCERN THAT
KMIDC MOTHERSHIP COULD BE USED FOR SALMON OR CRAB FISHERY IN
NORTHEAST PACIFIC AND/ OR EASTERN BERING SEA INTO US ACQUIESCENCE
IN TANNER CRAB QUOTA FOR KOREA. DESPITE STRONG DESIRE OF ALL
CONCERNED TO FIND PROFITABLE USE FOR MOTHERSHIP, HOWEVER, EMBASSY
DOES NOT BELIEVE ROKG WILL ALLOW EITHER SALMON OR CRAB FISHING
IN ABSENCE OF USG AGREEMENT.
UNDERHILL

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*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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